(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Certain stretches of NH 2 between Agra and Calcutta totaling to 477 Kms. are covered by these projects.

(d) The projects are targeted for completion by December 2003.

Performance of major ports

1057. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the performance of each major port;

(b) if so, the ports which are earning dividends since last three years and the ports which are sustaining losses;

(c) the reasons for losses; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the performance of each port?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As the Port Trusts are not companies, the question of earning dividends does not arise. However, all the Major Port Trusts except Calcutta Port Trust (CPT) have earned operating surplus during the last three years. The reasons for losses in the case of CPT is huge expenditure involved on dredging channel.

(d) Constant efforts are being made by the management of CPT to attract more cargo to the Port and to reduce expenditure, wherever necessary.

Double laning of NH-17

1058. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of the NH-17 in Kerala and how many Kilometres of this length is developed into double lane and four lane;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to convert more length of NH-17 to double lane during the year; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?